

Mufian language

Mufian (Muhian, Muhiang), or **Southern Arapesh**, is an Arapesh language (Torricelli) of Papua New Guinea. Dialects are *Supari*, *Balif*, *Filifita (Ilahita)*, *Iwam-Nagalemb*, *Nagipaem*; Filifita speakers are half the population, at 6,000 in 1999.^[1] It is spoken in 36 villages, most of which are located within Bumbita-Muhian Rural LLG, East Sepik Province. It is also spoken in Supari ward of Albiges-Mablep Rural LLG.^{[3][4]}

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Mufian	
Southern Arapesh	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Bumbita-Muhian Rural LLG, East Sepik Province (36 villages)
Native speakers	11,000 (1998) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Torricelli <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arapesh<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mufian</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	aoj
Glottolog	mufi1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mufi1238) ^[2]

Phonology

Consonant Phonemes of Mufian^[5]

	Labial	Alveolar	Velar		Glottal	
			labialized	plain	labialized	plain
Nasal	m	n				
Stop	p b	t d	k ^w g ^w	k g	ʔ ^w	ʔ
Fricative	f	s				h
Approximant	w	l				

/ʔ^w/ is a coarticulated glottal stop with lip rounding that occurs only in final word positions.^{[6]:311}

Vowel Phonemes of Mufian

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low	æ	a	

Pronouns

Southern Arapesh pronouns are:^[6]

	sg	pl
1incl		apə
1excl	aeʔ	afə
2	inəʔ	ipə
3m	ənən	əmom
3f	əkʊʔ ^w	aowou

Noun classes

There are 17 classes for count nouns in Mufian, plus two extra classes, i.e. proper names and place names. Noun classes are expressed in noun suffixes, adjective suffixes, and verb prefixes.

Although Southern Arapesh has more than a dozen noun classes, only four noun classes are determined by semantics, while the other noun classes are determined phonologically using the final root segment (a feature typical of the Lower Sepik languages). The four semantically determined noun classes are:^[6]

- class 16: male human referents
- class 8: female human referents
- class 5: human referents of unspecified sex (likely diminutive, since children are also included)
- class 6: human referents of unspecified sex

The membership of the other twelve classes is determined phonologically, by the final segment of the root, as in the Lower Sepik languages.^[6]

Some examples of Mufian noun classes from Alungum (1978):^[7]

Class	Form (sg.)	Form (pl.)	Gloss	Sg. Noun Suffix	Sg. Adjective Suffix	Sg. Verb Prefix	Pl. Noun Suffix	Pl. Adjective Suffix	Pl. Verb Prefix
Class 1	bol	bongof	pig	-l	-li	l-	-ngof	-ngufi	f-
Class 2	éngel	angof	name	-ngél	-ngili	g-	-ngof	-ngufi	f-
Class 3	nalof	nalelef	tooth	-f	-fi	f-	-lef	-lefi	f-
Class 4	lowaf	lu'ongof	clothes	-f	-fi	f-	-nguf	-fi	f-
Class 5	batéwin	batéwis	child	-n	-ni	n-	-s	-si	s-
Class 6	alupini	alupisi	friend	-ni	-ni	n-	-si	-si	s-
Class 7	nombat	nombangw	dog	-t, -ta	-tei	t-	-ngw	-ngwi	gw-
Class 8	nemata'w	nematawa	woman	-w	-kwi	kw-	-wa	-wei	w-
Class 9	nam	naep	eye	-m	-mi	m-	-p	-pi	p-
Class 10	lawang	lawah	tree	-g, -ga	-gwei	g-	-h	-ngéhi	h-
Class 11	bemb	bembéh	betel nut	-b	-mbi	b-	-h	-mbihi	h-
Class 12	nongwatop	nongwatoh	knife	-p	-pi	p-	-h	-hi	h-
Class 13	wambel	walemb	village	-mbel	-mbili	b-	-lemb	-lembi	b-
Class 14	mai'una	ma'unamb	pigeon	-a	-ni	n-	-amb	-mbi	b-
Class 15	usin	usimb	crested pigeon	-n	-ni	n-	-b	-mbi	b-
Class 16	aman	amam	man	-n	-nei	n-	-m	-mi	m-
Class 17	kos	kos	course	-s	-si	s-	-s	-si	s-

There are a few irregularities in these noun classes.^[7]

External links

- Paradisec has a collection of materials with [Don Laycock \(DL1\)](http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/DL1) (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/DL1>) that includes Mufian materials

References

- Mufian (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/aoj/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mufian" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/mufi1238>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Papua New Guinea languages" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/PG/languages>). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: SIL International.
4. United Nations in Papua New Guinea (2018). "Papua New Guinea Village Coordinates Lookup" (<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/village-coordinates-lookup>). *Humanitarian Data Exchange*. 1.31.9.
5. [1] (<http://www-01.sil.org/pacific/png/pubs/928474542391/Mufian.pdf>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160303204227/http://www-01.sil.org/pacific/png/pubs/928474542391/Mufian.pdf>) 2016-03-03 at the [Wayback Machine](#) "Mufian Organised Phonology Data" by R. J. Conrad
6. Foley, William A. (2018). "The Languages of the Sepik-Ramu Basin and Environs". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. 4. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 197–432. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.
7. "J. Alungum, R. J. Conrad, and J. Lukas (1978). [Some Muhiang Grammatical Notes](http://www.sil.org/pacific/png/pubs/15292/Some_Muhiang_gram_notes.pdf) (http://www.sil.org/pacific/png/pubs/15292/Some_Muhiang_gram_notes.pdf)."

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